

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 OMB-01 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /082 W

----- 041743

R 080930Z MAR 76 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1263

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0659

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SU, ET

SUBJECT: SUDANESE REMAIN CONCERNED OVER ETHIOPIAN
BORDER INCIDENTS

REF: KHARTOUM 602

1. WHILE SUPERFICIAL QUIET HAS RETURNED TO GOS/EPMG
RELATIONS, SUDANESE CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED OVER RECENT
STRAFING INCIDENTS INVOLVING ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE. FONOFF
USEC MIRGHANI TOLD AMBADDADOR MARCH 6 THAT GOS WAS NOT
SATISFIED WITH RECENT EPMG POLIC STATEMENT THAT SUCH
INCURSIONS WERE "NOT DELIBERATE". MINSTATE FONAFFS DENG
HAS RETURNED FROM ADDIS AFTER WHAT MIRGHANI INDICATED WAS
INCONCLUSIVE MEETING WITH TEFARI BENTE. MIRGHANI OPINED
THAT THE "COMING DAYS" WOULD SHOW WHETHER EPMG SERIOUSLY
INTERESTED IN AVOIDING FURTHER DIFFICULTIES. HE SAID THAT GOS
FAILURE TO REACT PUBLICLY TO JANUARY STRAFING INCIDENT HAD
PROMPTED SUDANESE ACCUSATIONS THAT GOVERNMENT WAS UNINTER-
ESTED IN PROTECTING ITS CITIZENS. REGIME COULD NOT LET THIS
MISCHIEVOUS IDEA GAIN CURRENCY AND WOULD ACCORDINGLY BE
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QUICK TO PUBLICIZE AND PROTEST ANY NEW FORAYS, AS WAS DONE
AFTER FEB 26 INCIDENTS.

2. TOGETHER WITH OTHER MEMBERS DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AMBASSADOR RETURNED MARCH 6 FROM FIVE-DAY WHISTLE-STOP TRAIN SWING WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI THROUGH EASTERN SUDAN. DURING TOUR PRESIDENT HIMSELF DID NOT STRESS ETHIOPIAN ISSUE BUT SSU SPEAKERS AT RALLIES IN KASSALA AND GEDAREF DREW PROLONGED APPLAUSE FOR THEIR REFERENCE-

ENCES TO NEED DEFEND COUNTRY FROM ETHIOPIAN "ATTACKS". FREIGHT TRAIN WAS SEEN MARCH 5 AT KHASHM AL-GIRBA, HEADING EAST AND PROBABLY BOUND FOR KASSALA, CARRYING FOUR NEW ARMY TRUCKS, SEVEN ARMORED CARS, AND INCLUDING FOUR RAILWAY TANK CARS. OTHERWISE, HOWEVER, AREA TRAVERSED (PORT SUDAN.SUAKIN-KASSALA-GEDAREF-WAD MEDANI) SHOWED NO SIGNS OF SIGNIFICANT MILITARY PREPARATIONS.

3. COMMENT: IN EVENT GOS NOT SATISFIED WITH EPMG RESPONSE OVER STRAFING INCIDENTS, MOST LIKELY SUDANESE MOVE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE MILITARY BUT RATHER AN INCREASE IN CONTACTS WITH, AND ASSISTANCE TO, ERITREAN GUERRILLAS. WHILE EPMG MAY ALREADY BELIEVE GOS IS EXTENDING SUCH ALL-OUT AID, THIS HAS NOT, WE BELIEVE, SO FAR BEEN TRUE. WOULD SEEM COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE FOR EPMG PURSUE A COURSE WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO WHAT ETHIOPIA WOULD NOT DOUBT LIKE TO AVOID, NAMELY MAJOR SUDANESE SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN SEPARATISM. BREWER

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